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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the Giver and Lord of life, to You we lift our hearts and in You we put our trust. Keep us from doing less than our best. Show us your way and teach us Your path. Lead us to Your truth, Lord, and we will live with abundance.

Today, give our Senators words that will bring light, hope, and peace. Let their speech be seasoned with a humility that seeks first to understand before it is understood. As they strive to be forces for good, give them the contentment that comes from an earnest desire to please You. Give all of us the power to rule our spirits, so that we may bring glory to Your Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leader time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will begin with a 1-hour period for morning business to allow Senators to begin to make statements. Following that time, we will return to consideration of the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. In order to finish that bill in the next day or two, we will need the cooperation of all Senators, and that is our objective. Senators SHELBY and MIKULSKI will be managing the bill and I expect a full day of consideration on that legislation. Rollcall votes will occur today and tonight on amendments, although we are making every effort to accommodate the Judiciary Committee over the course of the day in their hearings on the nomination of Judge Roberts.

At this time, we have one vote scheduled this afternoon and that vote will be at 12:30 on the passage of S.J. Res. 20, a resolution of disapproval regarding a set of EPA regulations. Following that vote, we will recess briefly until 2:15 for our weekly policy luncheons.

### MEETING WITH IRAQI PRESIDENT JALAL TALABANI

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, later today, several of our Senate colleagues and I will have the honor of hosting interim Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and members of his cabinet in the U.S. Capitol. President Talabani was elected in April of this year. Since then, we have seen the Iraqis form their first democratically elected Government in over half a century. We have also witnessed complex and painstaking negotiations to draft a permanent Iraqi constitution. That historic document, that hopeful document, will be put to the people October 15, which is one short month away.

The draft Iraqi constitution is a solid foundation for a democratic Iraq. It establishes a true democracy, a democratic system in which the voice of all Iraqis will be heard, human rights will be protected, the rule of law will be respected, and women will be full and equal political partners. It is a product of deliberate negotiations that included letters from all of Iraq's ethnic and religious groups. The process required enormous patience and flexibility—in other words, the tools of the democratic process—and it required great courage.

In the face of constant terrorist threats and violence, the Iraqi people showed once again their determination to secure their rights and their future as a free and democratic nation. Garnering support for the new constitution is now one of President Talabani's most pressing tasks. In our meeting today, I will urge President Talabani to continue his efforts to reach out to all segments of Iraq's diverse population. It is vital that Iraqis of all walks of life participate in this referendum next month.

It is also vital that the Sunni population rally behind this constitution and the framework of democracy and the governance it establishes. The Sunnis have raised concerns about federalism, about the role of Sharia law, and the allocation of oil revenues. These are all important issues that concern all of us as well.

I look forward to hearing President Talabani's response in our discussions today. I also look forward to learning more from the President about conditions on the ground, his views on the security situation, the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces, and the pace of economic reconstruction and revitalization. I will report back to this body either later today or tomorrow what I learned.

In the meantime, I urge my Senate colleagues to continue to support the democratic aspirations of the Iraqi

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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